

July 26, 1961

Dr. W.J. Halliday
University of Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

Dear Bill:

It was a pleasure to hear from you.

To put it plainly, the very best possible place that you might sensibly wish to go in order to work on cellular immunology and antibody reproduction would be the Hall Institute in Melbourne. Gus Nossal, having spent two years here, is on the point of returning there, and I'm sure will be continuing his splendid work in this field. You might wish to write to Burnett, or alternatively to wait until you have a chance to see Dr. Nossal after the end of this year. Even if other considerations should make you decide not to do your Sabbatical in Australia, a consultation with him would be invaluable as he will have managed to get some first hand knowledge of just about every laboratory in this field throughout the world. According to present plans, our program of work in this area will be leaving with Gus.

Of the other people that you mentioned, and taking account a number of practical complexities of people staying put, perhaps Dave Talmage would be my first recommendation. To enlarge your list I would give high score to Billingham and Silvers at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia.

There is also some strikingly good work in this area in Europe. In London I would think of Medawar and Mitchison, of Porter, and of Humphrey. You could rationalize a year in Paris by working with Bussard at the Pasteur Institute. And there is a remarkably good school of work in this area operating in Prague and including Sterzl and Hasek. If living awhile behind the Iron curtain is not too dreary and has some interest for you, I could recommend that laboratory very highly on a scientific basis.

In any case if you could afford to wait until you could talk to Nossal directly, I'm sure that you would find him a most useful and congenial source of advice.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics